

**TORRANCE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**INTRA-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

**TO:** Jeffery W. Gibson  
Community Development Director

**DATE:** 8-14-12

**FROM:** Rebecca Cutting  
Community Development Department

**SUBJECT:** Pending 2012 Resolutions from the League of California Cities

Planning staff was asked to review the following pending Resolutions from the League of California:

**3. Desert Protection Act**

The City of Needles submitted this Resolution encouraging California cities to oppose the California Desert Protection Act of 2011 proposed by Senator Dianne Feinstein, which provides for conservation, enhanced recreational opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation area. This legislation would create two new national monuments, the 94,000 acres Mohave Trails National Monument along Route 66 and the 134,000 acres Sand to Snow National Monument, which connects Joshua Tree National Park to the San Bernardino Mountains; adds adjacent lands to Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley National Park and Mohave National Preserve; protects nearly 76 miles of waterways, designates five new wilderness areas, designates approximately 250,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas near Fort Irwin, enhances recreational opportunities, and designates four existing off-highway vehicle areas in the California Desert as permanent.

Needles' Resolution cites an additional 1.6 acres of land protected from potential development, infringement on future renewable solar energy projects, and removal of lands from public use as their reasons for opposition. The League does not have any specific policies on this issue specific to this Resolution.

Impact to local control?	None
Fiscal Impact to City?	None
Impact on public safety?	None

Torrance's Position: Because Resolution no. 3 has no impact on Torrance, staff recommends a neutral position.

**4. Global Warming**

The City of Needles submitted this Resolution requesting cities to: 1) adopt resolutions requesting the suspension of the implementation of some, if not all, of the regulations promulgated under the California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) until such time as the legal and regulatory inconsistencies can be resolved; 2) request the California Air Resources Board (C.A.R.B.) and other

applicable state agencies to examine the impact of the regulations promulgated pursuant to AB 32, and for potential conflict with other existing regulations at both the State and Federal level, 3) request the CARB and other applicable state agencies to examine the overall economic impact of the regulations with emphasis upon the potential for job and other economic activity "flight" from California; and 4) request the State to encourage the resolution of internal conflicts between and among existing Federal programs by supporting programs including but not limited to the following:

- a) Reopening the Federal Clean Air Act;
- b) New Source Review Reform; and
- c) Efforts to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under a comprehensive federal program.

There are a number of Federal regulations promulgated and proposed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.E.P.A.) regarding greenhouse gasses that have the potential to conflict both directly and in their implementation with regulatory measures to implement AB 32 as adopted and proposed by CARB. There are also a number of other mandates and regulations at the State level (municipal waste diversion, renewable energy mandate, etc.) that have the potential to conflict both directly and due to their implementation with regulatory measures to implement AB 32 as adopted and proposed by CARB. Such conflicts severely impede cities or the state as well as regulated industry in their efforts to comply with both the applicable Federal regulations and regulations implementing AB 32. As a result, the existing and proposed regulations on both the State and Federal levels create an overall regulatory structure that is inconsistent and confusing, making it virtually impossible or difficult to start any new large scale projects at a time when the State's infrastructure and economy are in most need of improvement. It is also anticipated that the existing and proposed regulations and unclear guidelines will also make it more difficult for smaller, pollution transport impacted air districts like the Mohave Desert Air Quality Management District to properly implement and enforce the regulations.

The League encourages cities to adopt resolutions requesting suspension of the implementation of some, if not all, the regulations promulgated under the California Global Warming Solutions Act until such time as the legal and regulatory inconsistencies can be resolved.

Impact to local control?	None
Fiscal Impact to City?	No direct impact
Impact on public safety?	None

Torrance's position:	Because Resolution no. 4 has no impact on Torrance, Staff recommends a neutral position.
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Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Cutting  
Community Development Department